Shooting Policemen

Strike Rallies - Belfast & Derry

Anti-fascist Protests - No Pasaran

BLACK STAR

Goodbye Protocol - Hello Windsor

So here we go again. Those implacable enemies, the British and European governments have managed to put their differences aside in the cause of the greater good - the preservation and maintenance of capitalism. The Northern Ireland Protocol, devised to effectively turn this wee part of the world into a free trade zone, has been replaced by something that hopes to do the same thing but is called something more patriotic. At this point we're still unsure of what the governments of Austria, Finland, Hungary and Portugal, to name but a few, will say to the DUP's seven tests and eight experts, but we're sure the EU's foreign ministers are paying close attention to whatever Paisley jun., wee Sammy, and Lord Nigel have to say. Like their Irish nationalist adversaries, the British nationalists in unionism essentially want borders recognised for their identity but ignored for the free flow of capital. The best of both worlds for the DUP and their Tory allies is, like that for Sinn Féin and their Irish Tory allies, the worst of all worlds for the working class.

'Northern Ireland is in the unbelievably…unique position in the entire world in having privileged access not just to the UK home market…but also the EU single market'
Tory Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak

The Shooting of Policemen

Few in the anarchist movement are pacifists. We know that the state and capital will not simply relinquish power even when we manage to seize the means of production.

Indeed, if we thought shooting cops would usher in a new world free of political and economic exploitation, most would be devoting their time and attention to just that. However, what shooting cops here in the North has shown over the fifty odd year period in which it was practiced regularly, is that all it delivered was Stormont, sectarianism, hatred, rampant inequalities and a just as rampant neo-conservative capitalist service sector economy with almost no industrial muscle, little workers' agency in their own lives, and of course, the fucking Belfast Giants and Titanic Museum!

That there are still arseholes out there with weapons who imagine they are keeping alive a tradition that deserves to be truly dead by killing people, is not only deeply ironic, but tragically sad, depressing and pointless.

Condemnation, as we know from past experience, won't work, it merely services the egos and pomposity of politicians and clergymen and ignores the internal dynamics at work amongst these patriots that justify their actions. In short, they don't give a fuck. Their justification is the mystical potion of historic precedence, public ambivalence about their so-called goals, and a sense of macho adolescent defiance of the morality of the world surrounding them even though they subscribe to 99 percent of that same morality.

Whether they like it or not, society here has moved on and no amount of shootings, car bombs and punishment attacks will persuade people that the war was better than the peace with all its tawdry deals and sectarian politics, its shite public services, and its intolerance and inequalities. As shit as our peace is, it is far better than their 'war' – fuck the lot of them!

Meanwhile... in Ballymena

Until recently, I'd never heard of 'Christians Against Poverty', which is saying something in Ballymena (clearly, I've not been paying attention). However, the local press here recently did a wee feature on them offering their benefits and welfare advice service to locals.

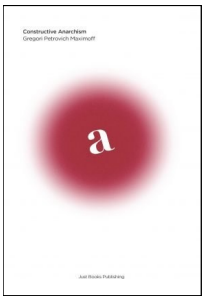
Their advice to the guid folk of the seven towers? Take something called a 'money personality quiz' and talk to your weans about how to save money, not 'challenge the system that creates poverty' or even preaching about rich men and the eye of a needle, or some other biblical bollocks.

Christians Against Poverty have been accused of trying to use benefits advice to prey on vulnerable people for their nefarious psalm singing, god-fearing, tub-thumping, hellfire and brimstone religion. The god-bothering anti-choice loonies at Precious Life and the homophobic, burn-them-all conversion 'therapists' of various evangelical nutjob churches have tried this craic before – offer a 'service' to help and counsel people as a guise to fucking them over.

As a result, I've decided us anarchos need to set up a employers' support service – get them in the door with promises of tax dodges, overheads cost cutting, and union busting tactics and then just lecture them on Rudolf Rocker, Kropotkin and Bakunin. Admittedly, claw hammers might need to make an appearance at some point!

Just Books Publishing

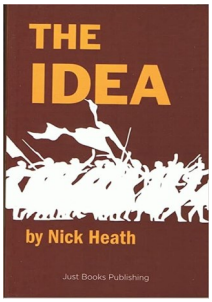
Just Books Publishing, recently set up by the Just Books Collective (an integral part of the work of Organise!), has successfully released its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£11.99



The second title is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£18.99

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

Education Workers' Rally

Rallies of striking education workers and others took place across the North last month, appealing for solidarity and demanding an end to poverty pay.

Members of Organise! supported rallies in Belfast and Derry attended by hundreds, many of them young teachers taking strike action for the first time in their lives. Spirits were high with a good atmosphere of determination and resolve that even the boring and piss-poor speeches of trade union officials and politicians could not dampen. Predictably, there were calls for a return of the Northern Ireland government based on the false idea that Stormont would somehow resolve the disputes and give everyone a pay rise, even though as we all know the only pay rises they're interested in are ones that line their own pockets.

Teachers from four separate unions representing those across the North took to their picket lines before the rallies on 21 February. The unions had planned for half-day strikes, with teachers returning to the classroom in the afternoon, but most took the day off instead, many schools closed anyway and the 'strategy' of the National Education Union, NASUWT, INTO, and the Ulster Teacher's Union effectively fell apart. Before this, teachers had been on a work to rule, action short of a strike over a Department of Education pay offer of 3.2 percent. Besides this, as with health workers, there has been growing anger about the state of the infrastructure, services, support and workloads in the education sector for years, with less spent per pupil in Northern Ireland than anywhere else in the UK and Secretary of State Heaton-Harris promising further substantial cuts to the education budget.

Where the industrial action goes now is anyone's guess, but the workers employed in our education sector seem in no mood for compromise and as ever are ahead of their unions when it comes to demanding real and substantive change beyond a 6 per cent pay claim. It was clear from discussions at the rallies that there's no appetite for surrender, the genie is out of the bottle.

100 years of the IWA Marked in Bratislava

On the 7 March Organise! joined comrades from across the IWA at an event to celebrate 100 years of the International and discuss and learn lessons from the current struggles of sections and friends groups from Austria, Poland, Ireland, Britain and Slovakia.

The event was very well organised by our hosts in the IWA section in Slovakia, Priama Akcia, and began with a history of the international before discussion of the different situations of the WAS (Austria), SolFed (Britain), ZSP (Poland). On the walls around us and in a separate room was an exhibition of the actions of PA over the years.

Such events are essential in the fostering of solidarity across the IWA and in coming together at these types of events we can all learn from one another and continue to build anarcho-syndicalism as an alternative that can win day to day struggles as workers while looking towards a truly revolutionary alternative for the future.

We wish PA every success with an upcoming event in the city of Kosice on 1st April.

Organise! attend anti-fascist protests

Organise! members took part in protests last month against the rise of fascist and racist organisations in the Republic of Ireland in recent years. Gatherings in Letterkenny in County Donegal and Dublin expressed determination to confront and destroy the growing Irish patriot movement and their anti-migrant, racist and fascist ideology and activities.

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which as affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com